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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic index making system for an electronic catalog, comprising:

an object input section configured to enter [[an]] a three-dimensional image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image;

a generated image specification section configured to output specified information;

a two-dimensional image generation section configured to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section, based on the specified information from the generated image specification section to generate a two-dimensional thumbnail image;

an index data creation section configured to create index data by use of the two-dimensional thumbnail image generated by the two-dimensional image generation section; and

an index output section configured to output an index by use of the index data created by the index data creation section, the index including the two-dimensional thumbnail image.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specified information includes presence information of one of an object in the image object and a part of the object.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specified information includes whether or not an object in the image object is a preset spatial posture.

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4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the spatial posture includes at least one of a front, an upper surface, a side face and a perspective surface of the object.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specified information includes illumination information of the image object.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section includes a function of synthesizing a background.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the two-dimensional image generation section generates at least two or more different two-dimensional images for one of the image objects, and
the index data creation section extracts one of the different two-dimensional images to use it as index data.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the two-dimensional image generation section generates at least two or more different two-dimensional images for one of the image objects, and
the index data creation section creates index data corresponding to the at least two or more different two-dimensional images for one of the image objects.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein at least one display image size is different among the two-dimensional images in the index data.

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11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section includes a function of correcting data of at least one of the image object and a copy of the image object based on a result of electronically analyzing the image object.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image object is a three-dimensional image, and a target of the correction includes at least one of a spatial origin coordinate of the image object, inclination of a spatial coordinate axis, a luminance value, a color, a coefficient of reflection, a light emission coefficient of the object, the number of polygons, an initial spatial position, and illumination conditions of the object.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section further includes a function of electronically searching an image object similar to the image object.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section searches the similar image object by using a characteristic amount of the two-dimensional image generated at the two-dimensional image generation section.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section includes a function of outputting the index as a paper medium.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section uses a recognition algorithm to recognize specific

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characteristics in the image object to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section uses an algorithm to read and analyze information added to the image object entered by the object input section to electronically analyze the image object.

18. (Currently Amended) An automatic index making method for an electronic catalog, comprising:

entering [[an]] a three-dimensional image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image;

outputting specified information;

electronically analyzing the entered image object based on the specified information to generate a two-dimensional thumbnail image;

creating index data by using the generated two-dimensional thumbnail image;

and

outputting an index by using the created index data, the index including the two-dimensional thumbnail image.

19. (Canceled)

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows. A clean copy of the Abstract is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An automatic index making system for an electronic catalog is disclosed. The system generates a two-dimensional thumbnail image used for an electronic catalog from an entered three-dimensional image object by using specified information. The specified information can be, but not limited to, the condition that specific part of the three-dimensional image object appears on the two-dimensional thumbnail image, or the condition that object in the two-dimensional thumbnail image has a specific orientation. The system analyzes the three-dimensional image object based on the specified information, generates two-dimensional thumbnail image, and outputs an index that incorporates the two-dimensional image. ~~comprises an object input section configured to enter an image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image, a generated image specification section configured to output specified information, and a two-dimensional image generation section configured to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section, based on the specified information from the generated image specification section to generate a two-dimensional image. The system further comprises an index data creation section configured to create index data by use of the two-dimensional image generated by the two-dimensional image generation section, and an index output section configured to output an index by use of the index data created by the index data creation section.~~